GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4168
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2005
FERRY SERVICE IN ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS
Bhakta Shri Manoranjan

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that the schedule of ferry service in the backward region of Andaman & Nicobar Islands is not satisfactory after Tsunami devastation;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps taken to improve the schedule of ferry service; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefore ?

Answer

MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS(SHRI T.R. BAALU)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. The ferry services in Andaman & Nicobar group of Islands were affected only temporarily due to Tsunami. The ferry services now have been restored back to almost normal levels. These services were affected as Tsunami damaged the port infrastructure in the whole of A&N Islands with partial damage in the Northern Islands and severe damage in the Southern group of Islands.

(c) Steps were taken to improve the ferry service by acquiring new Vessels and by rescheduling of services. 6 nos. of pontoons and 2 LCA type aircraft were acquired immediately after Tsumani which have been deployed to aid embarkation/ disembarkation of passengers and mid sea cargo transshipment.

Rescheduling of ferry service to restore shipping service has been done as under:

(i) Daily ferry services are maintained between Port Blair and Hut-Bay.

(ii) Car Nicobar is connected with Port Blair on fixed bi-weekly service from Port Blair to Campbell Bay via Nincowry;

(iii) 13 small boats and three 100/75 Pax speed boats are stationed in Southern Group of Islands for better connectivity.

(iv) Teressa and Katchal are connected by smaller speed vessels from Noncowry and to provide connectivity between land and the speed boats calling these islands, pontoons with smaller boats have been hired;

(v) Departmental smaller motor launches and hired vessels are stationed at Nancowry to provide ferry service to neighboring inhabited islands in the Noncowry group of Islands; and

(vi) Biweekly ferry service between Campobell Bay and Gandhinagar has also been introduced and the passenger and cargo services betweenjetty and land at Campbell Bay are maintained by deploying a vehicle ferry.

(d) Does not arise.